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PENCE CALLS FOR LESS MONEY FOR U.N.

"The United Nations Failed and it's Time to Send a Message"

Washington, Jul 22, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Mike Pence introduced legislation today urging the U.S. Representative to the United Nations to negotiate lower U.N. dues for the United States.

"As coalition forces prepared to oust the regime of Saddam Hussein, the United Nations abdicated its responsibility of serving as a bulwark against tyranny around the world," said Pence. "The United Nations failed and it's time to send a message."

"The United Nations had a choice of whether it wanted to cover for tyrants and nations who support them or whether it would fulfill its historic mission and be about the business of advancing freedom and confronting tyranny around the world," said Pence.

"It is now obvious the U.N. decided to ignore the United States and its efforts to confront one of the most tyrannical regimes since Hitler," said Pence.

Pence pointed out during his floor remarks that the United States currently pays 22 percent of the United Nations' regular budget. Germany pays 9.8 percent, France pays 6.5 and China 1.5 percent.

Pence also pointed out that the U.N. passed 16 separate resolutions over a period of a decade and the security council, which includes Germany, France and Russia adopted U.N. resolution 1441, which required Iraq to disclose its weapons of mass destruction. "Time and again the U.N. failed to take itself seriously," said Pence.

“Mr. Speaker, during his inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy renewed U.S. support for the U.N. ‘to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective.’ The U.N. has become what President Kennedy feared. Aside from its humanitarian work, the U.N. has become a ‘forum for invective,’” said Pence.

“It is time for Congress to reevaluate our commitment to the United Nations. U.S. taxpayer money should not be used to fund an organization that is so diametrically opposed to the national security interests of the United States and its allies,” said Pence.

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